



Working to Build the Future of Long-Term Care

Empowering adults as they age with reliable information and access to the care they need

Enabling individuals who are at high risk of nursing home placement to remain at home

Building disease prevention into community living through the use of low-cost, evidence-based programs



Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grants Program

The Administration on Aging's (AoA) Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grants (NHDMG) program is a competitive grants opportunity designed to assist individuals at risk of nursing home placement and spend down to Medicaid to receive home and community-based services that enable them to continue to live in the community. The NHDMG program is administered through State Units on Aging (SUAs), in partnership with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and in collaboration with community aging service providers and other key long-term care stakeholders. The program encourages the Aging Services Network to modernize and transform the funding they receive under the Older Americans Act, or other non-Medicaid sources, into flexible, consumer-directed service dollars.

This grant opportunity is designed to advance the President's New Freedom Initiative and complement the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) "Money Follows the Person Initiative" by strengthening the capacity of states to reach older adults before

they enter a nursing home and spend down to Medicaid. It also supports states' long-term care rebalancing efforts. AoA's long-range vision is to have nursing home diversion programs consistent with the Nursing Home Diversion standards, developed by AoA, to be a key component of every state's system of long-term care.

The standards include service elements and system elements. The service elements are designed to ensure that the program reaches its intended target population, and that the needs and preferences of consumers and their family caregivers are fully considered in the design and implementation of the program.

The key service elements are:

- Flexible dollars to ensure that services can be tailored to the individualized needs of consumers and their family caregivers, rather than being tied to a particular service or set of services;
- Targeting criteria to ensure the program actually serves individuals who are most at risk

of nursing home placement and spend down to Medicaid;

- Giving clients the option of using the Cash and Counseling model; and,
- Ensuring that the program is used to complement and support – and not to supplant – the on-going efforts of family caregivers and the use of an individual's personal and financial resources - in helping that individual to remain at home.

The systems elements are designed to ensure the effective and efficient administration of a nursing home diversion program, and include:

- Using “Single Entry Point” systems that provide access to all publicly supported long-term care to perform the functions of client screening, assessment, care planning, and targeting individuals at risk of nursing home placement and spend down to Medicaid;
- Having a quality assurance program that can be used by program staff and administrators to continually improve the way the program is serving its clients; and,
- Evaluating the program so that administrators, funders, and the public will know if the program is meeting its goals and objectives.

AoA published a NHDMG Program Announcement in June 2007. Applications for the grant funds were evaluated in part on the degree of progress a state proposed to make in aligning its existing funds with the Nursing Home Diversion program standards. Whatever activities a State chooses to pursue under this grant announcement, by the end of the 18-month project period, the state's project must be effectively targeting flexible services to individuals who are at risk of nursing home placement and spend down to Medicaid.

AoA has announced awards to 12 states for a combined federal and non-federal funded grant program of approximately \$8.8 million. The 12 state grantees are:

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| ■ Arkansas | ■ Michigan |
| ■ Connecticut | ■ Minnesota |
| ■ Georgia | ■ New Hampshire |
| ■ Illinois | ■ New Jersey |
| ■ Kentucky | ■ Vermont |
| ■ Maryland | ■ West Virginia |

The project period is 18 months. More information and the full program announcement are available on the [AoA Funding Opportunity Webpage](http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp) (<http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp>).

For More Information

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; phone (202) 619-0724; fax (202) 357-3523; Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov or contact our website at www.aoa.gov